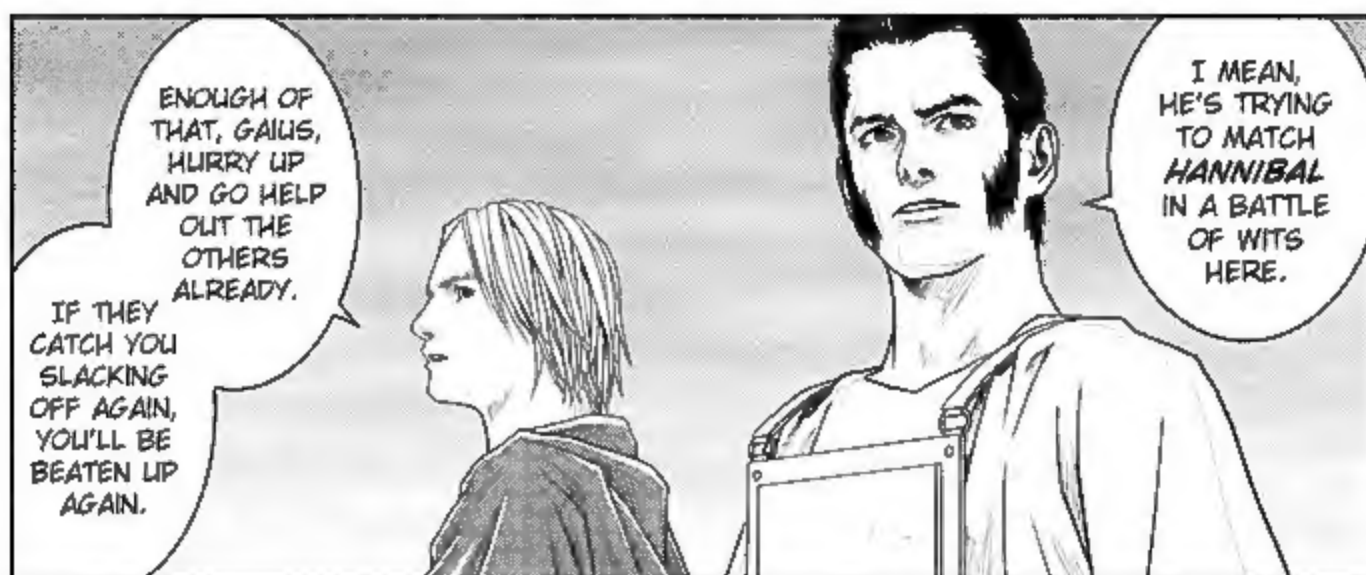


ad astra episode 015



... BUT
Y'KNOW,
ARE THINGS
REALLY
GONNA GO
DOWN SO
SMOOTHLY?

HEY,
COME ON,
PICK UP
YOUR
SIDE.



ENOUGH OF
THAT, GAIUS,
HURRY UP
AND GO HELP
OUT THE
OTHERS
ALREADY.

IF THEY
CATCH YOU
SLACKING
OFF AGAIN,
YOU'LL BE
BEATEN UP
AGAIN.

I MEAN,
HE'S TRYING
TO MATCH
HANNIBAL
IN A BATTLE
OF WITS
HERE.



DON'T
THINK THAT
YOUR FANCY
SOCIAL
STATUS
WILL SOLVE
EVERYTHING
IN LIFE!

I'M GONNA
COMPLAIN
ABOUT YOU
TO MARCUS
LATER!

...?

THEN
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

NAH,
I'M FINE
THANKS.





I MEAN,
EVEN I PLAN
TO JUMP AT
THE CHANCE
OF BATTLE
IF THERE
IS ONE.

AMONGST
THE PLEBS AND
ALLIED SOLDIERS
THAT MAKE UP
THE MAJORITY
OF THE ROMAN
LEGIONS...

THERE'S
ALREADY
THIS SORT
OF SILENT
UNDER-
STANDING
THAT'S BEEN
REACHED.



ANY POWER
OR SWAY THAT
DICTATOR FABIUS
MAY HAVE HELD
AMONGST THE MEN
HAS ALREADY
EVAPORATED.

AND THE
ONE MAN
WHO HOLDS
POWER IN THE
SHADOWS IS
MAGISTER
EQUITUM
MINUCIUS
OVER
THERE.



MINUCIUS
...

YOU'RE
SURPRISINGLY
NAIVE WHEN
IT COMES
TO SOME
THINGS...



...WHEN
DID
THINGS
GET
SO...

YOU
KNOW...





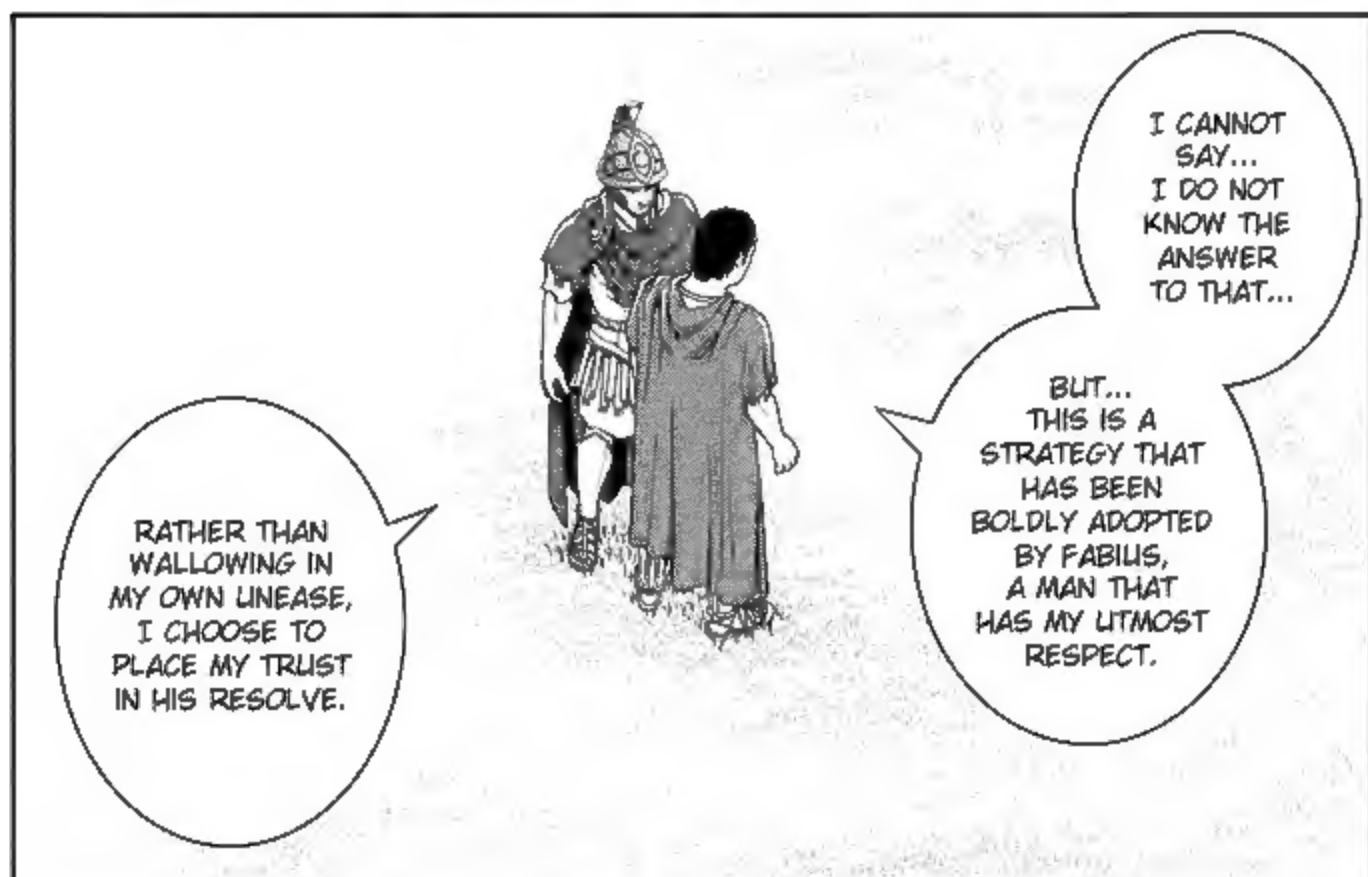




THIS SORT
OF SLUGGISH
AND DRAWN
OUT BATTLE OF
ATTRITION...

DO YOU
TRULY
BELIEVE
IN YOUR
HEART
THAT...

IS CAPABLE
OF CATCHING
THAT SLY
AND CRAFTY
LITTLE RAT?





ABANDONING
ONESELF
TO WHISPER
FLATTERIES
OF YOUR
SUPERIORS

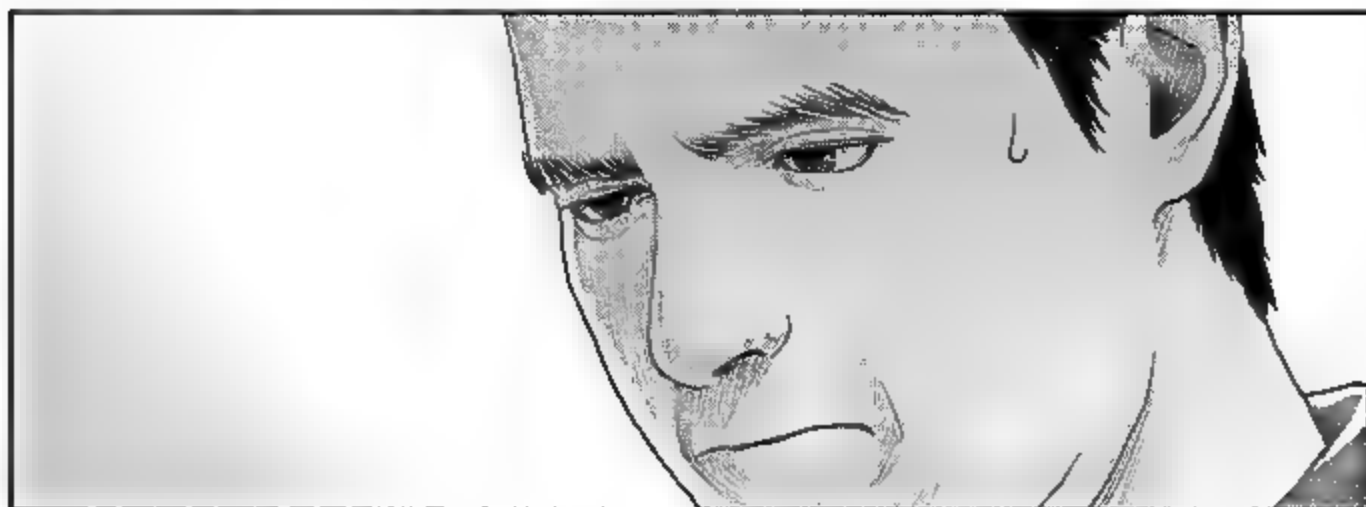
SO THIS IS
THE SECRET
TO SUCCESS
ADOPTED BY
A MAN WHOM
I ONCE
CONSIDERED
A COMRADE



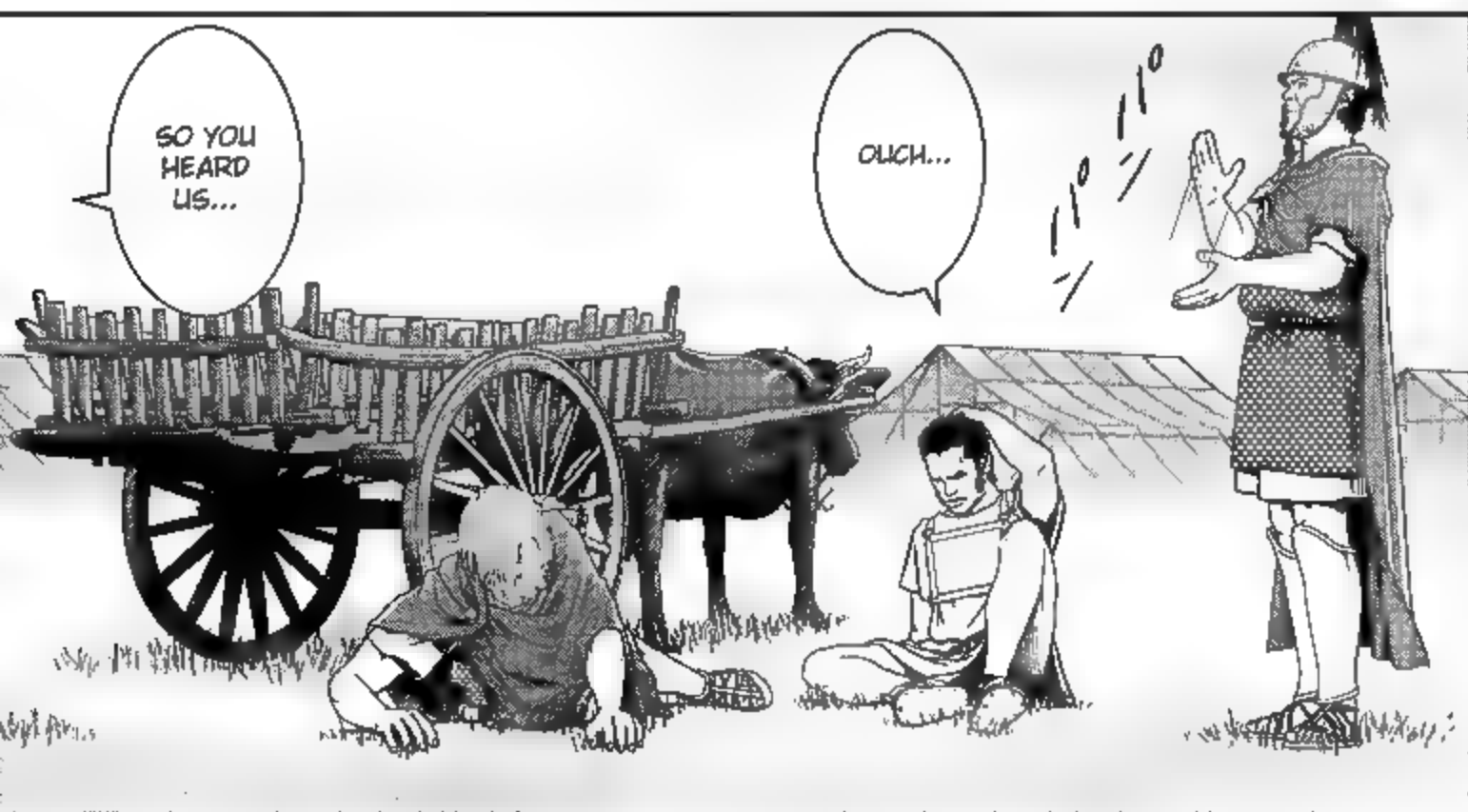
YOU HAVE
BECOME A
SPLENDID
POLITICIAN.

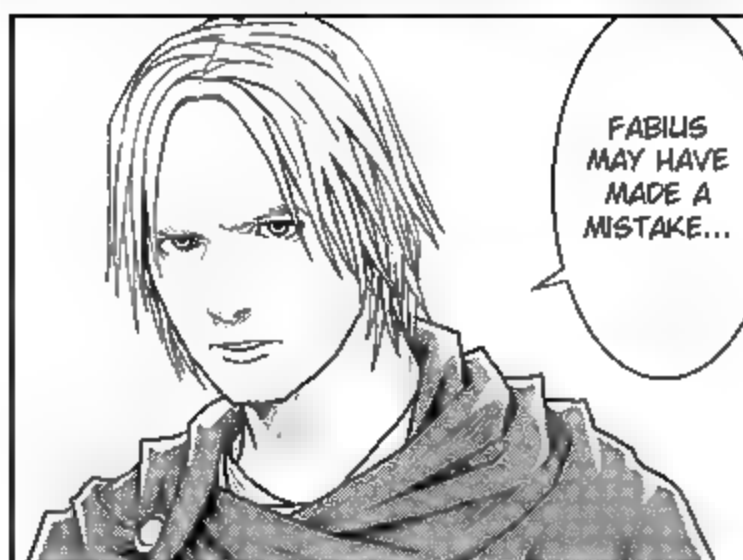


BUT YOU
ARE NO
LONGER A
WARRIOR.











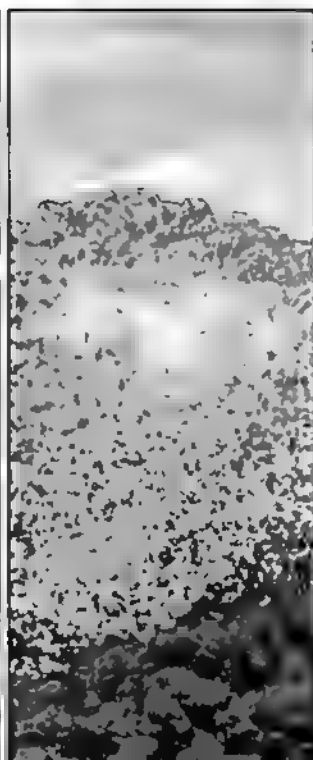




JUST
ONE MORE
DAY TO GO,
YOUNG
MAN

HEY,
GRAMP,
HOW MUCH
LONGER
UNTIL WE
REACH
CASINUM?

YOU SAID
THE SAME
THING
YESTERDAY
YOU SHITTY
OLD
GEEZER!





HALT,
HARUSPEX.

E'
H



WE ARE
CLEARLY
HEADING
SOUTH
RIGHT
NOW...



OUR
DESTINATION
SHOULD BE
THE TOWN OF
CASINUM,
LOCATED
TO OUR
NORTH...



SO WHY
IS THE SUN
LOCATED
TO OUR
RIGHT?



...WHAT!?



I MUST
HAVE BEEN
CONFUSED
BY YOUR
THICK
ACCENTS...

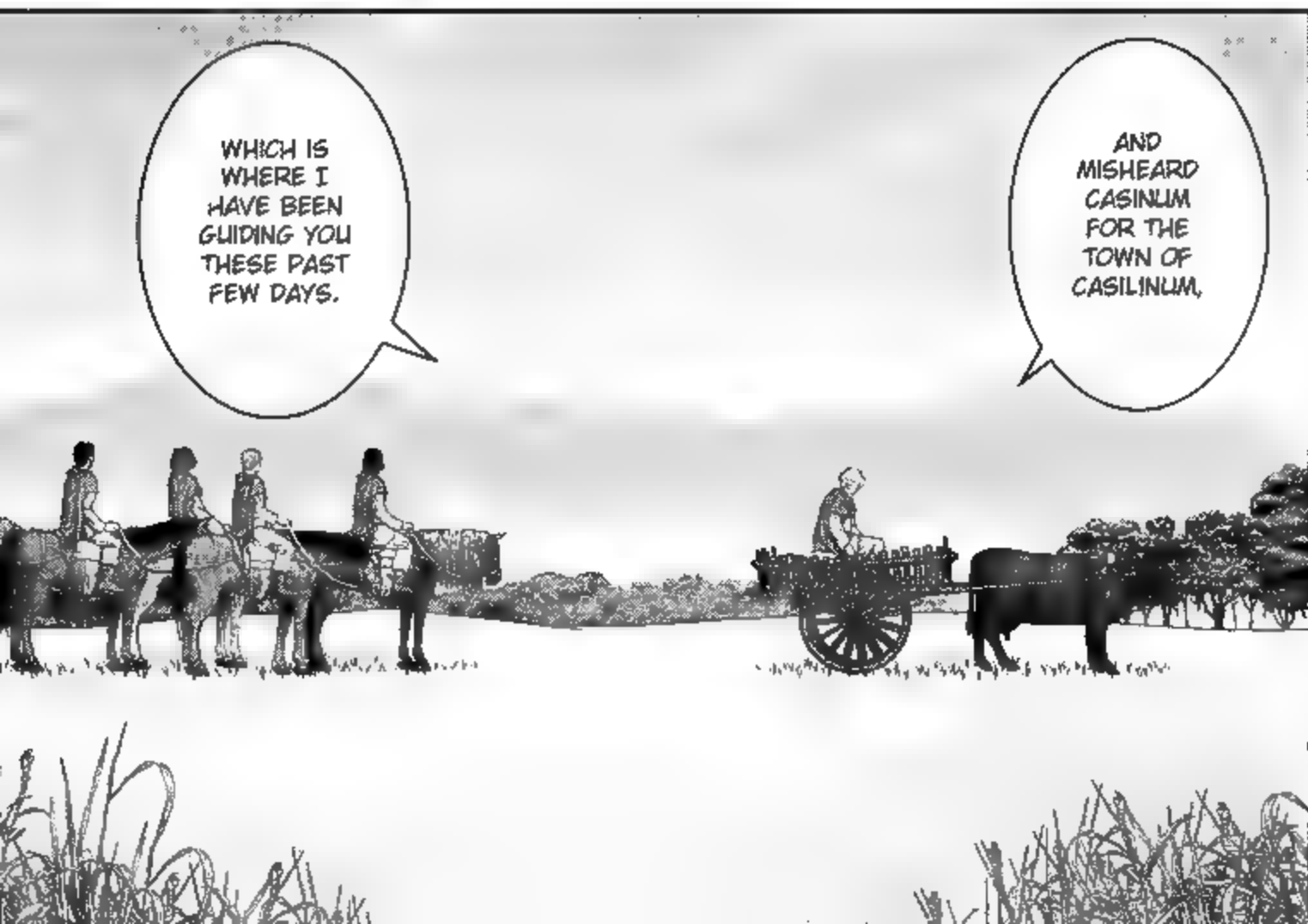
I'M
AFRAID MY
HEARING
ISN'T WHAT
IT USED
TO BE.



...OH
DEAR ME,
I HAVE
MADE A
TERRIBLE
MISTAKE...

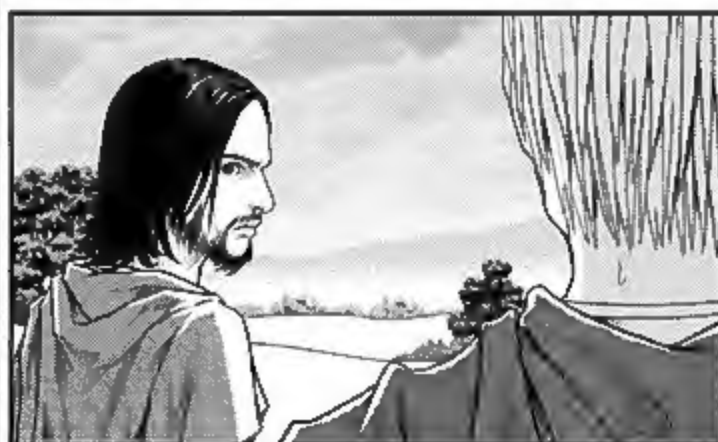
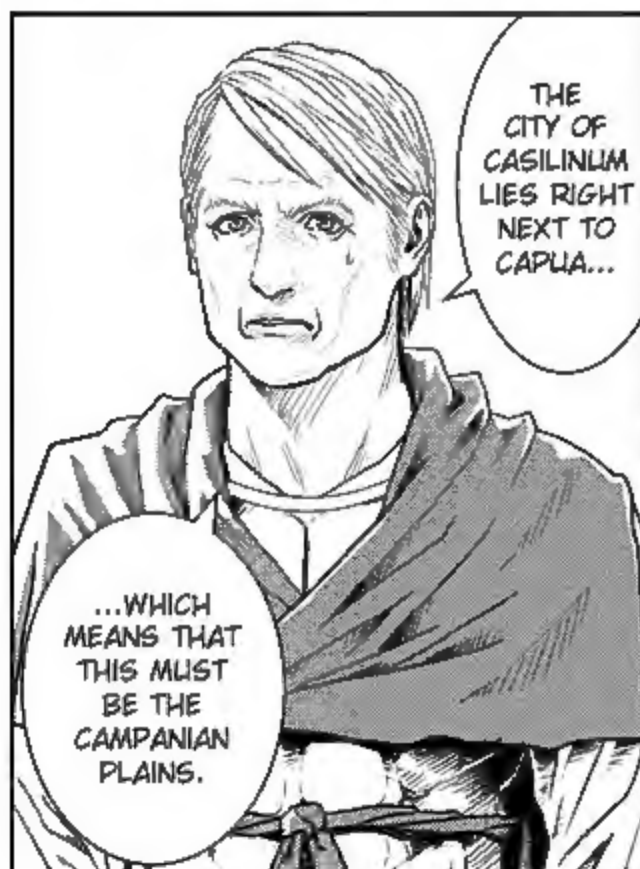
...
CASINUM?

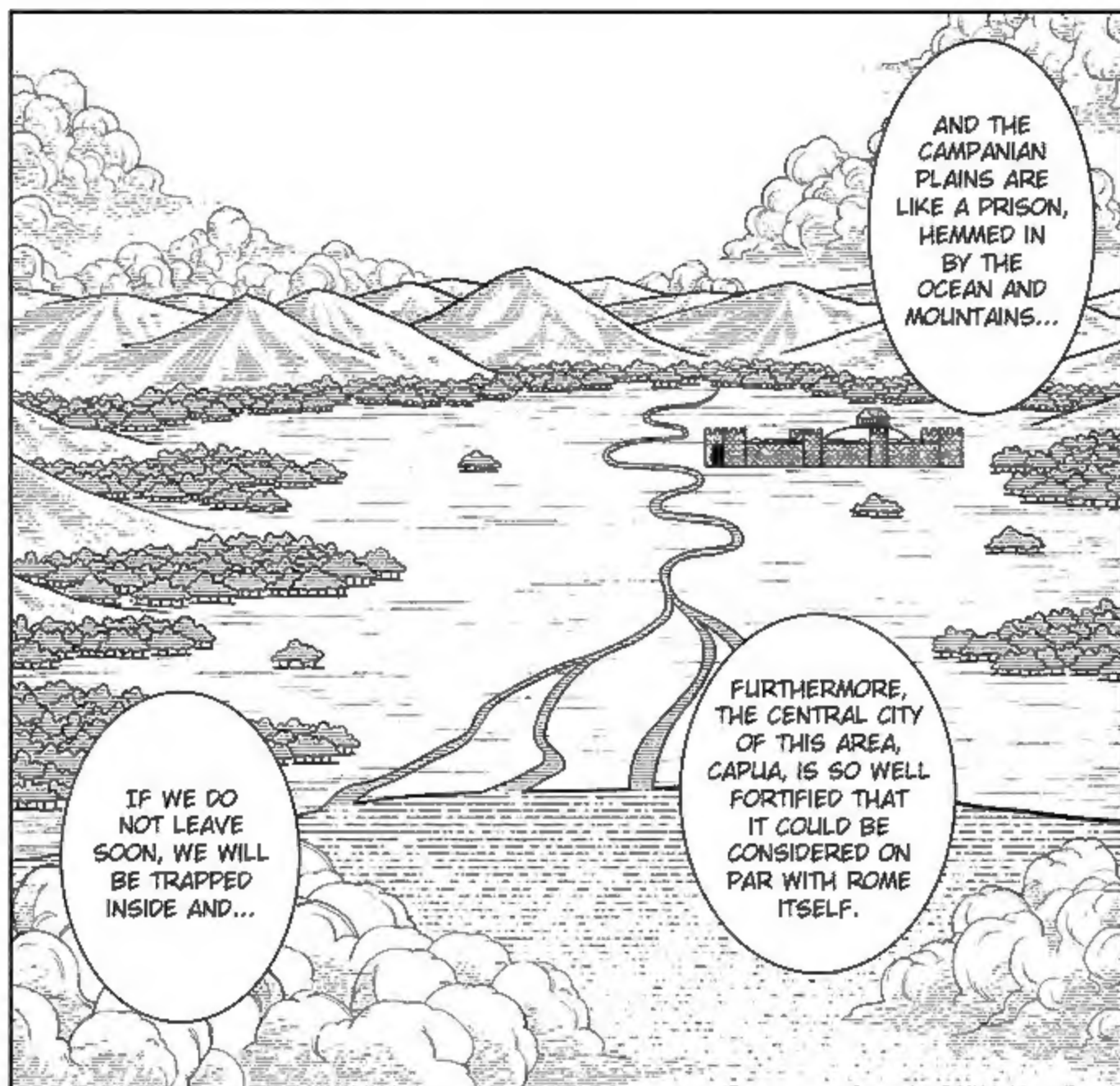
DID YOU...
JUST SAY
CASINUM?



WHICH IS
WHERE I
HAVE BEEN
GUIDING YOU
THESE PAST
FEW DAYS.

AND
MISHEARD
CASINUM
FOR THE
TOWN OF
CASILINUM.







YOU
MUST
BE...

A
ROMAN
SPY.

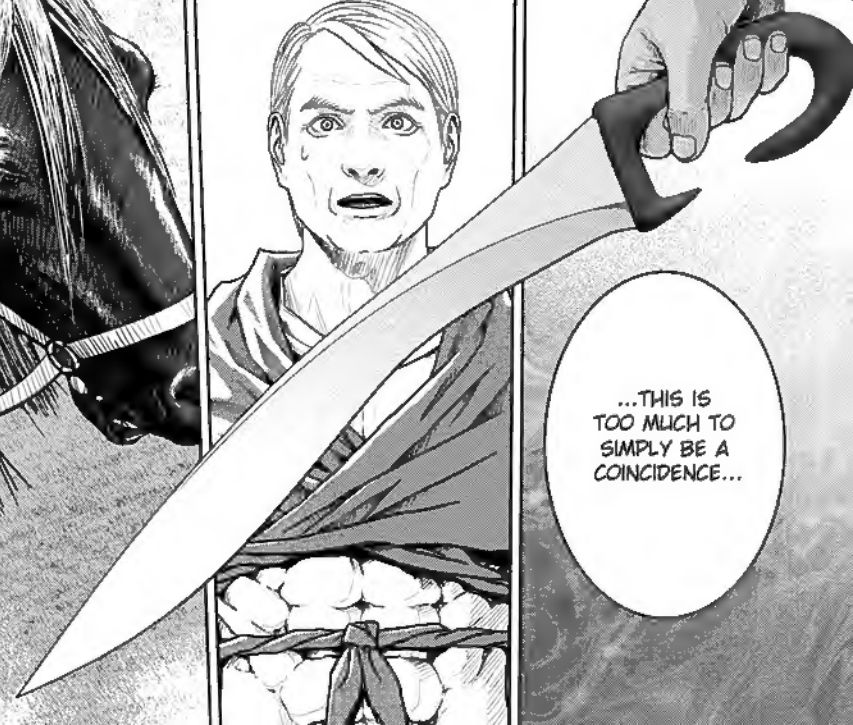


SO NOT
ONLY DID
OUR GUIDE
HAPPEN TO
LEAD US TO
THE WRONG
PLACE,

BUT OUR
ENEMY EVEN
DISPATCHED
SOLDIERS
THAT JUST
HAPPENED TO
BE LYING IN
WAIT AT THE
END OF THE
JOURNEY.



...THIS IS
TOO MUCH TO
SIMPLY BE A
COINCIDENCE...



ad astra

Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major & Hannibal Barca